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(54) **SHOE WITH WRITING SURFACE**

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**36/136, 112, 98**  
See application file for complete search history.

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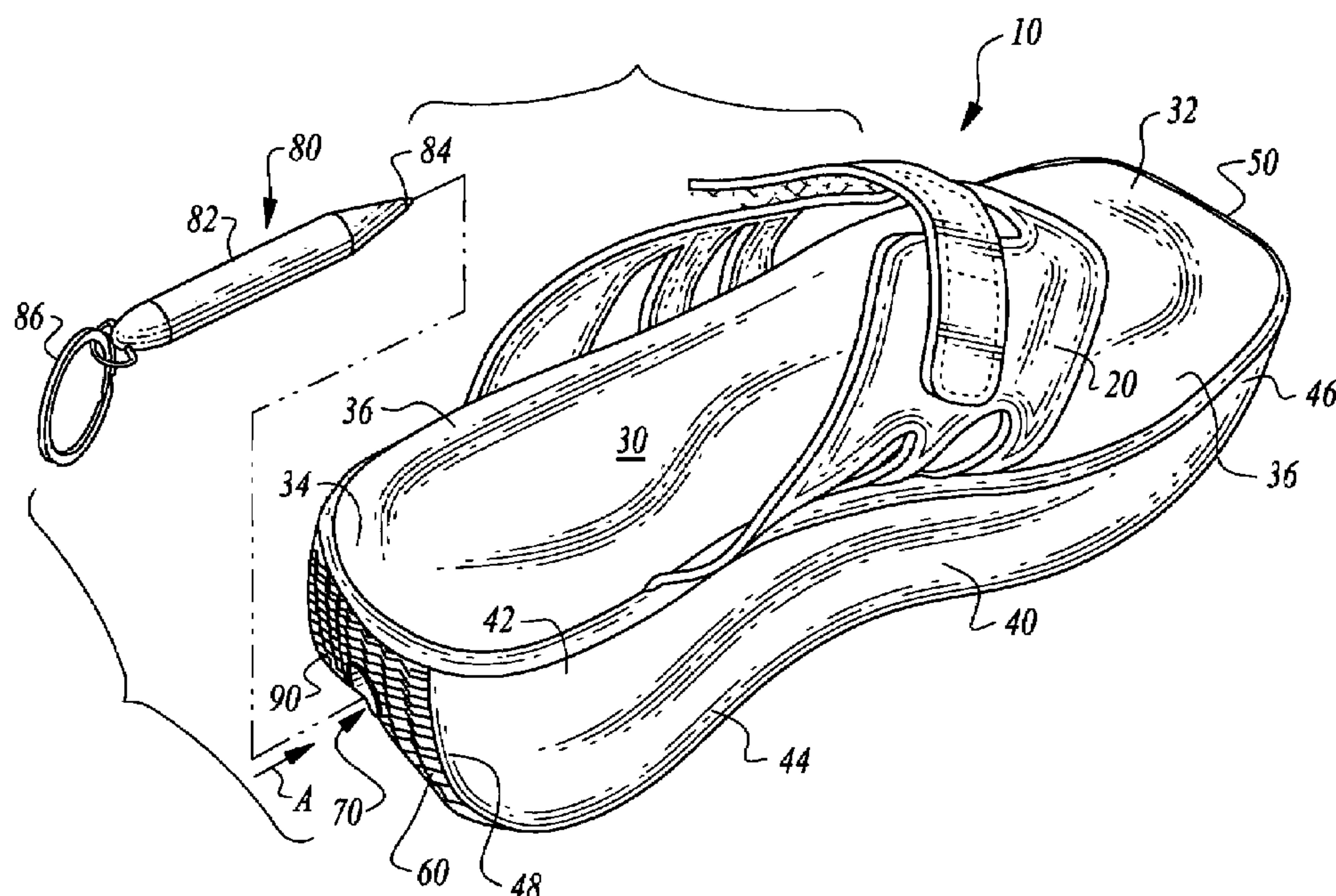
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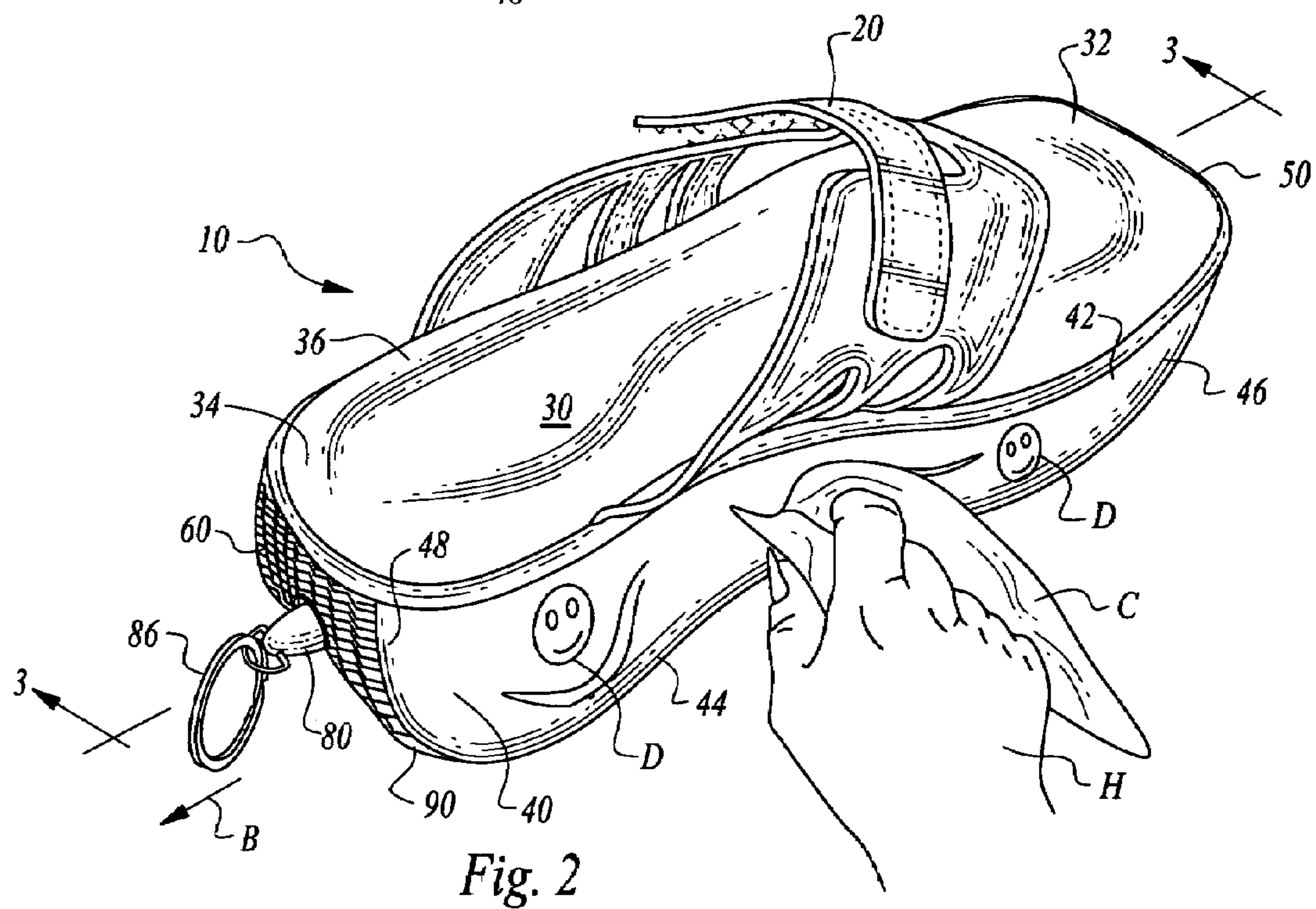
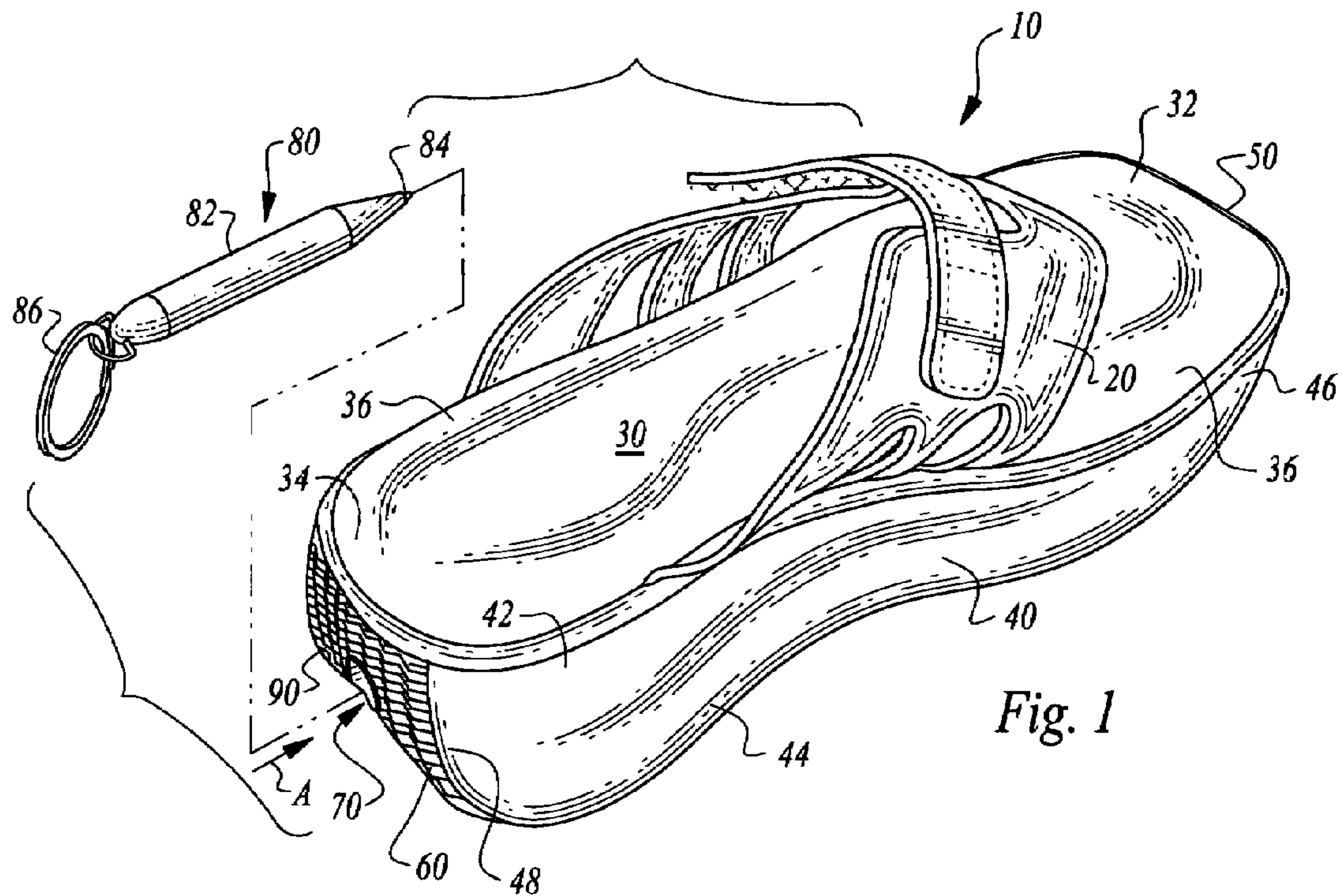
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

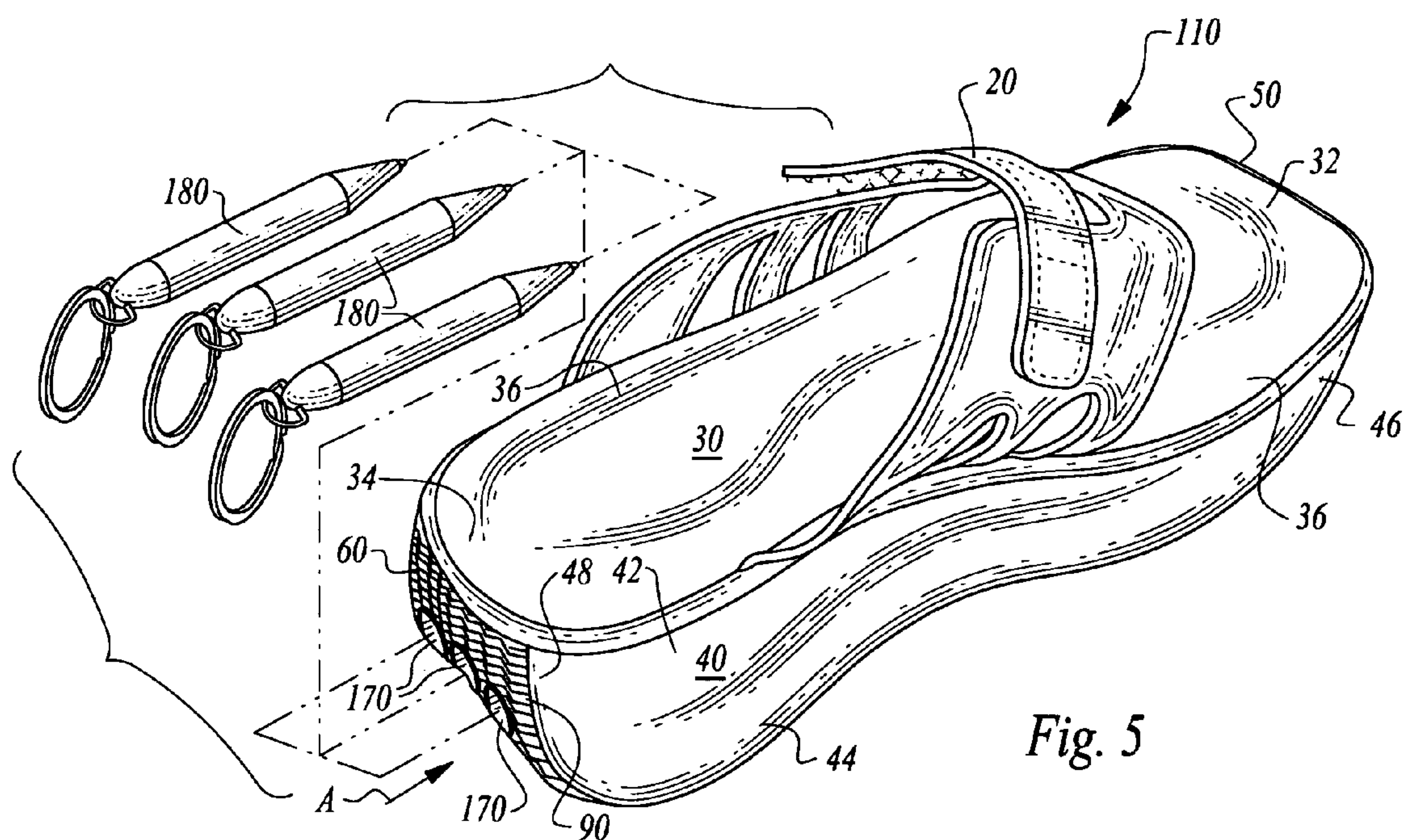
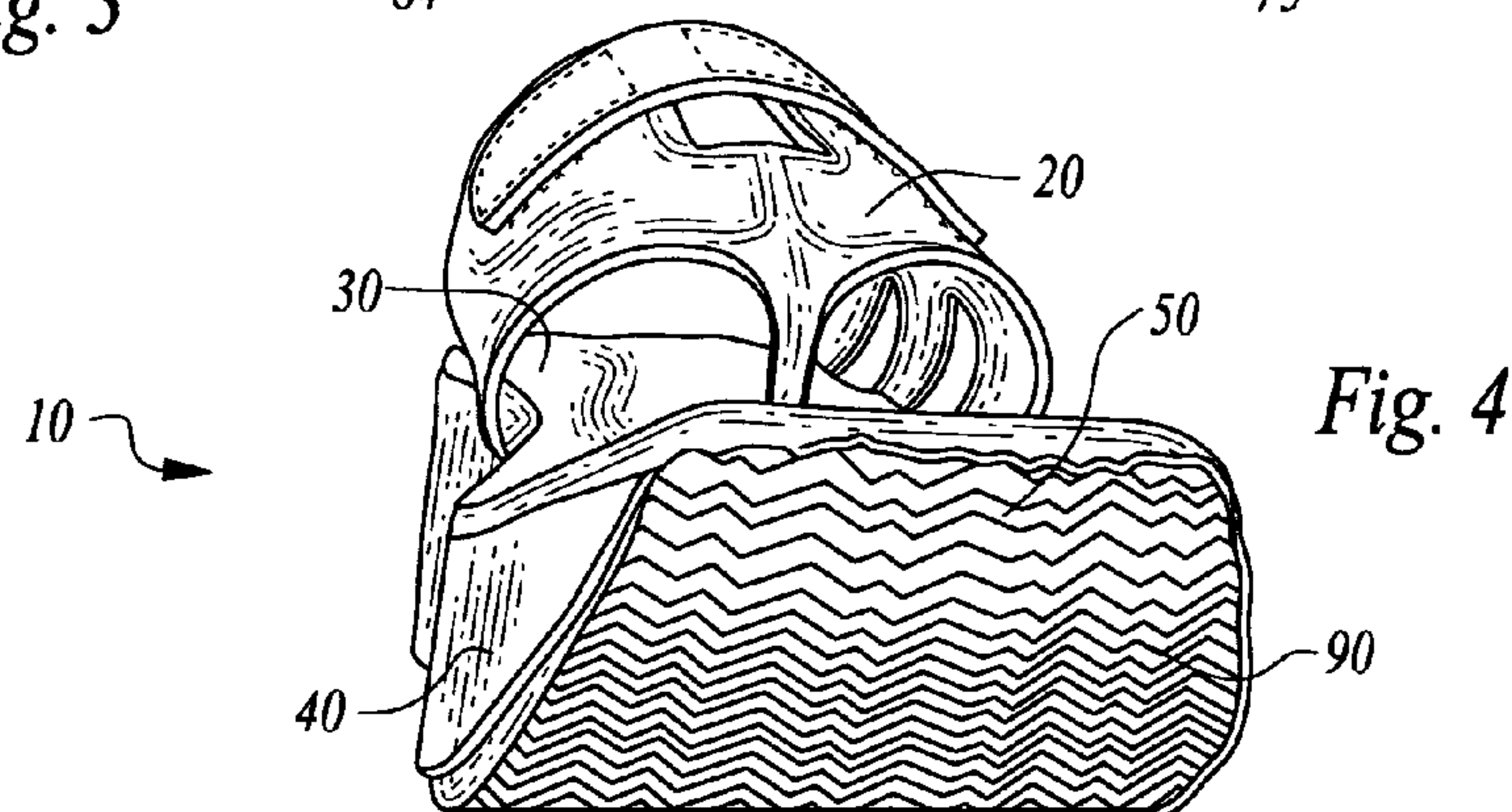
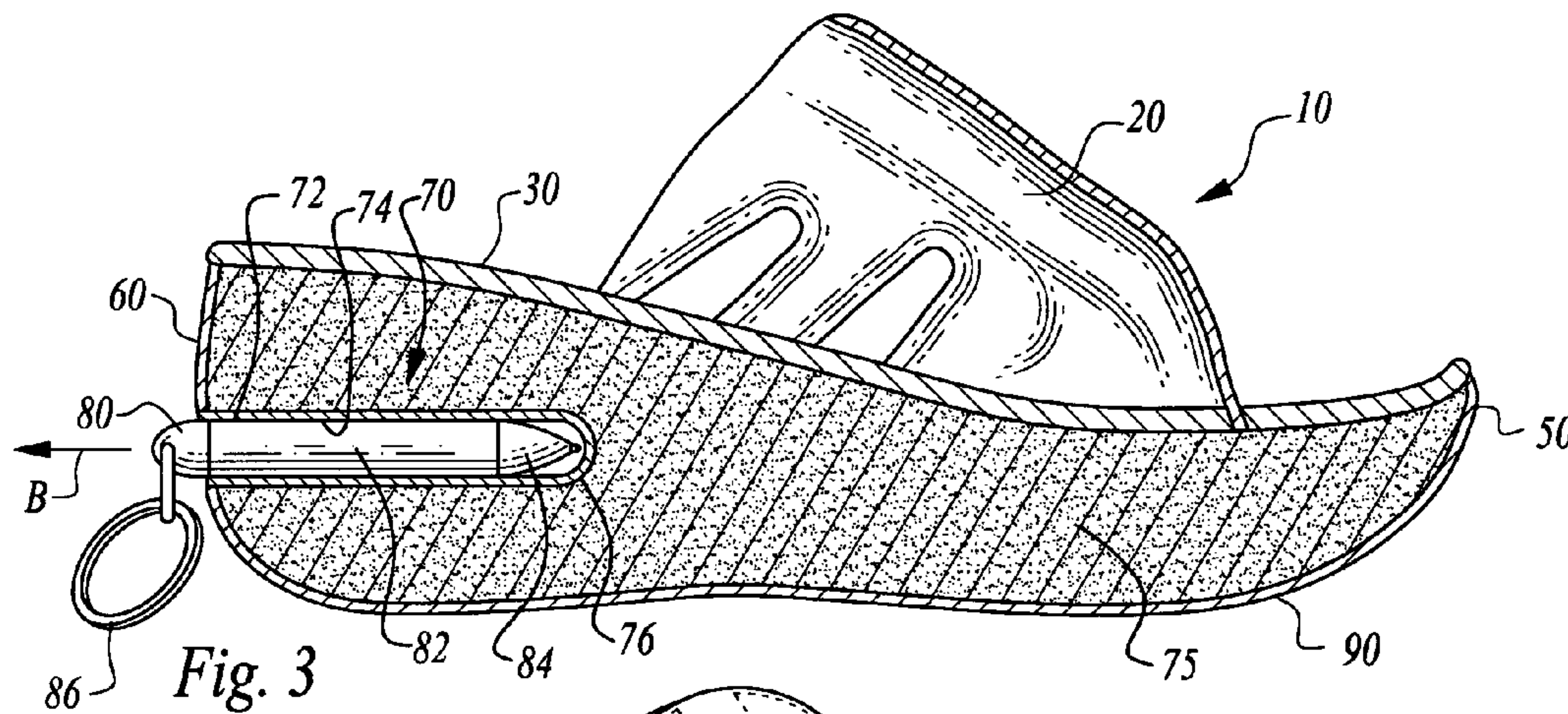
A shoe is provided with a writing surface so that temporary expressive indicia can be applied to the shoe. The writing surface is preferably in the form of a side surface of the shoe extending between a tread and a foot contacting surface of the shoe. The side surface is preferably formed of patent leather compatible with a dry erase marker provided as a writing implement. In a most preferred form of the invention, the shoe includes a bore which acts as a housing for the marker or other writing implement to conveniently store the writing implement when not in use. The bore or other housing also keeps the writing implement fresh by sealing the writing implement within the bore when not in use, especially when the writing implement is a dry erase marker.

**10 Claims, 2 Drawing Sheets**











## 1

## SHOE WITH WRITING SURFACE

## FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The following invention relates to shoes and other foot-  
wear. More particularly, this invention relates to shoes which  
have surfaces thereof which can be written upon by the wearer  
or others, preferably in a temporary and repeatable fashion.

## BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Many individuals enjoy expressing themselves through  
their clothing and through non-clothing adornment. This  
ornamentation can be located many different places and can  
take various different forms. For instance, ornamentation can  
be placed upon a shirt, trousers, or a hat. Also, such ornamen-  
tation can be provided directly upon the individual's body,  
such as through tattoos (both temporary and permanent) the  
decoration of fingernails and toenails, and through an almost  
limitless variety of different wearable and directly applicable  
expressive elements.

The expression can be subtle or explicit. For instance, a  
subtle form of expression can occur merely through the selec-  
tion of patterns and colors to be provided on the clothing or  
directly applied to the body. More explicit expression can  
occur through utilization of commonly recognized symbols  
or the writing of words. For instance, t-shirts are often  
adorned with written messages or symbols which can be  
recognized by others and thus convey a message. Similar  
explicit symbols or words can be otherwise worn by an indi-  
vidual, such as through utilization of tattooing methods, nail  
finishing, etc.

Many individuals desire to be highly expressive but dislike  
the permanence associated with printing on clothing with a  
single message or permanently applying a tattoo. Such indi-  
viduals may wish to be expressive in different ways, such as  
by conveying different messages through different words or  
different symbols at different times. Such individuals might  
also desire to at times express little or no message, or only  
provide a subtle decoration, rather than an explicit message.  
With the permanence of printed material on clothing, or tat-  
toos, such an individual has less flexibility, or is required to  
maintain a large wardrobe for all of the different expression  
that the individual may wish to display. Accordingly, a need  
exists for wearable expression which can be readily modified  
to match the expression desired for the individual.

Many individuals enjoy wearing unique footwear as a form  
of expression. By wearing such unique footwear, a form of  
non-verbal expression is afforded to the individual. Surveys  
often report the large numbers of pairs of shoes owned by  
individuals, and particularly women. Purchase, storage and  
maintenance of such a large inventory of shoes creates its own  
set of problems.

In at least one prior art instance, the ability to convey some  
form of customized message has been combined with foot-  
wear, such as in the Spitzer-Cohn decoratable shoe which is  
the subject of U.S. Patent Application Publication No.  
US2005/0022431. This decoratable shoe has a chalkboard  
marking surface on side portions of the shoe so that a user can  
write with chalk directly upon this side surface of the shoe.

While such a decoratable shoe generally allows an indi-  
vidual to provide a customized message or other expression  
directly on the shoe, this decoratable shoe is not entirely  
satisfactory in achieving all of the above outlined purposes. In  
particular, the Spitzer-Cohn decoratable shoe does not pro-  
vide any convenient location for storage of the chalk. One  
would thus typically be only able to modify the decoratable

## 2

shoe at a location where chalk is available. Often an indi-  
vidual has time where the individual is waiting for some other  
activity to begin and the individual is free to apply some  
expressive element visually on the shoe. If the shoe could  
provide a container for such a writing implement, the user  
would be able at any time to modify the shoe as desired.

Furthermore, chalk and a chalkboard surface are not  
entirely satisfactory. When water is encountered, the chalk  
readily washes off. Chalk is typically somewhat muted in  
appearance, making it difficult to read any words or other  
symbols clearly unless a relatively large amount of space is  
provided. Furthermore, the best chalk writing surfaces are  
rather rigid, and are less compatible with shoe construction.  
Thus, compromise must be made either in utilizing more rigid  
materials than desired in constructing the shoe or in materials  
which are less able to hold the chalk and provide high contrast  
for good visibility when messages or other expression are  
applied with chalk.

Accordingly, a need exists for a shoe with a writing surface  
that can provide a clear high contrast message or other expres-  
sion, and which can also contain a writing implement within  
the shoe for convenient storage and ready availability when  
an individual wishes to modify the appearance of the shoe.

## SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

With this invention, a shoe is provided with a writing  
surface which is compatible with a writing implement, pref-  
erably in the form of a dry erase marker. In particular, appli-  
cant has experimented with different materials and has found  
that white patent leather provides a high contrast surface  
which is also able to be wiped after writing thereon with a dry  
erase marker, and the dry erase ink easily wipes completely  
away. Furthermore, patent leather material is highly compat-  
ible with shoe construction, being substantially non-water  
absorbent, able to repel dirt and debris for easy cleaning,  
sufficiently flexible to provide adequate comfort to the wearer  
and is amenable to mass production shoe manufacture. Also,  
the patent leather material, being a common shoe manufac-  
turing material already, provides the wearer with the option of  
providing no message and having footwear which is innocu-  
ous when not provided with any particular expression, such as  
when the wearer wishes to not present any such particular  
expression.

Furthermore, with this invention at least one bore is pro-  
vided which extends into a core between a foot contacting  
surface of the shoe and a tread of the shoe. This bore is sized  
to receive a dry erase marker or other writing implement  
therein. The bore is preferably sized so that at least a portion  
of the bore has a friction fit with a portion of the dry erase  
marker so that a tip of the dry erase marker remains isolated  
from an outside environment and avoids drying out. One way  
to provide this friction fit is to embed a dry erase marker cap  
within the core and aligned with the bore so that the tip of the  
marker snaps into the cap when it is stored in the bore.

The shoe can have the writing surface configured in many  
different ways. Most preferably, the writing surface is in the  
form of a side surface extending from the tread up to the foot  
contacting surface on lateral sides of the shoe, and most  
particularly on an outer side of the shoe where any writing is  
most visible while the shoe is being worn. An upper is pro-  
vided on the shoe which preferably merely provides the func-  
tion of covering an upper portion of the wearer's foot and  
helping to hold the shoe onto the wearer's foot. As an alter-  
native, the writing surface can extend up onto the upper, and



3

the upper can fully or partially enclose the foot, so that the writing surface can extend up over upper portions of the wearer's foot also.

While patent leather has been shown to be particularly effective, other materials could be selected in alternative embodiments of this invention. The shoe can be configured with a single bore for a single writing implement or with multiple bores, so that writing implements having different colors can be stored within a single shoe. Where two shoes are each provided with three bores, up to six colors can be provided for the writing of full color messages, emblems or other expression (i.e. lines, polka dots, patterns, etc.) upon the writing surface of the shoe.

#### OBJECTS OF THE INVENTION

Accordingly, a primary object of the present invention is to provide a shoe with a writing surface thereon so that a writing implement can write a temporary message or other expression onto the shoe.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a shoe with both a writing surface and a housing to at least partially house a writing implement within or on the shoe.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a shoe with a variable appearance.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a method for modifying the appearance of a shoe.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a shoe formed of a material which is compatible with dry erase markers for temporary decoration of the shoe.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a shoe which is fun to wear and fun to play with by decorating the shoe in a limitless variety of ways by writing upon a writing surface thereof.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a shoe which can be written upon and which maintains a sufficient comfort that the wearer can wear the shoe and the shoe can perform adequately while displaying a message or other expression.

Other further objects of the present invention will become apparent from a careful reading of the included drawing figures, the claims and detailed description of the invention.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a shoe according to a preferred embodiment of this invention and with a writing implement shown exploded out of a bore that is provided for housing the writing implement within the shoe.

FIG. 2 is a perspective view similar to FIG. 1, but with the writing implement stored within the housing of the shoe, and with decorations applied to a side surface of the shoe and in the process of being wiped off, according to a method of this invention.

FIG. 3 is a full sectional view of that which is shown in FIG. 2 and illustrating interior details of the shoe of the preferred embodiment of this invention.

FIG. 4 is a front elevation view of that which is shown in FIG. 2.

4

FIG. 5 is a perspective view of an alternative embodiment of the shoe of this invention with three separate bores for housing three separate writing implements within the alternative shoe of this invention.

#### DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Referring to the drawings, wherein like reference numerals represent like parts throughout the various figures, reference numeral **10** is directed to a shoe (FIG. 1) which includes a writing surface which can be written upon with a writing implement such as a dry erase marker **80** (FIG. 1). In this way, various different decorations **D** (FIG. 2) can be written upon the shoe **10** so that a variety of different expressive indicia can be temporarily applied to the shoe **10**. When the decoration **D** is to be changed or no expression is desired for the shoe **10**, the decoration **D** can be removed, such as through utilization of a cloth **C** to wipe the decorations **D** off of the writing surface.

In essence, and with particular reference to FIGS. 1 and 2, basic details of the shoe **10** of the preferred embodiment are described. The shoe **10** generally includes an upper **20** which is constructed to hold the shoe **10** onto a foot of a wearer. Below the upper **20**, a foot contacting surface **30** is provided to support a foot of a wearer. A side surface **40** extends down from the foot contacting surface **30** to a tread **90**. This side surface **40** and the foot contacting surface **30** extend from a toe end **50** to a heel end **60**. A bore **70** is preferably provided extending into a core **75** between the foot contacting surface **30** and the tread **90**. This bore **70** acts as a housing for storing of the marker **80** or other writing implement within the shoe **10**.

More specifically, and with particular reference to FIGS. 1 and 2, details of the various structures of the shoe **10** are described, according to this preferred embodiment. The upper **20** is shown in the general form of a thong style sandal with the upper **20** attached to other portions of the shoe **10** near lateral sides of the foot contacting surface **30**. The upper **20** also is shown attaching directly to the foot contacting surface **30** through a thong element located particularly to reside between a big toe and other toes of the foot of the wearer. However, the upper **20** could have a limitless variety of different configurations and still operate according to this invention.

The upper **20** could be made from a common material with the side surface **40** or from a separate material. The upper **20** could be open as shown or substantially or entirely enclosed. The upper **20** can essentially have any configuration desired, provided that the upper **20** provides the general function of keeping the shoe **10** upon the foot of the wearer.

The foot contacting surface **30** defines that portion of the shoe **10** upon which the foot directly rests when the shoe **10** is being worn. This foot contacting surface **30** is elongate and extends from a forward edge **32** to a rear edge **34** and is bounded laterally by side edges **36**. The foot contacting surface **30** could be planar, but most preferably is contoured generally to match a form of a lower surface of the foot of the wearer for maximum comfort. This foot contacting surface **30** most preferably is elevated near the rear edge **34** and lowered near the forward edge **32** such that the entire shoe **10** is generally caused to be taller near the rear edge **34** and shorter near the forward edge **32**.

The foot contacting surface **30** is preferably somewhat soft and flexible so that the foot of the wearer can be fully supported even when feet of different specific geometries are being supported by the foot contacting surface **30**. Also, the



## 5

foot contacting surface **30** could optionally be made from a common material with that of the side surface **40** which defines the writing surface in the preferred embodiment of this invention. Most preferably, however, the foot contacting surface **30** does not form any portion of the writing surface.

The shoe **10** includes a pair of side surfaces **40**, with only one of the side surfaces **40** shown in the figures, but with the opposite side surface being of a similar form. In particular, the side surfaces **40** are preferably oriented vertically and project downwardly from the side edges **36** of the foot contacting surface **30**. These side edges **40** preferably provide the primary writing surface for the shoe **10** of this invention. This side surface **40** is preferably sufficiently tall between the tread **90** and the foot contacting surface **30** so that relatively large and distinct expressive elements in the form of symbols, written letters, patterns, polka dots, stripes, or other indicia can be depicted on the side surface **40** and be readily seen by others.

For instance, near the heel end **60**, the side surface **40** is preferably approximately two and one-half inches tall. Near the toe end **50**, the side surface **40** preferably maintains a height of at least one and one-half inches except as the side surface **40** is approaching the toe end **50**, where the side surface **40** can taper down to a point. This side surface **40** is shown in this embodiment as extending from the tread **90** to the foot contacting surface **30** and then terminating. As an alternative, the side surface **40** could extend up past the foot contacting surface **30** and the side surface **40** could transition into a portion of the upper **20**, or could otherwise continue upwardly separate from the upper **20** to provide a larger writing surface.

The side surface **40** extends from an upper edge **42** preferably adjacent a foot contacting surface **30** down to a lower edge **44** preferably adjacent the tread **90**. The side surface **40** also extends from this front edge **46** adjacent the toe end **50** to a back edge **48** adjacent the heel end **60**.

The writing surface is preferably formed of white patent leather. The inventor's experimentation has shown that white patent leather can be written upon with standard dry erase markers and provides a high contrast image. When the dry erase ink is to be erased, a user's fingers, or a paper or fabric cloth **C** can be readily utilized to wipe away the dried dry erase ink. After such wiping occurs, no residual image remains upon the patent leather forming the side surface **40** or other portions of the writing surface of the shoe **10**. Further experimentation by the inventor or others may reveal other materials which provide at least adequate performance with dry erase markers. While a preferred embodiment for this invention calls for formation of the writing surface from white patent leather, this invention should not be so limited to just this one material or color, unless particularly so restricted by the claims of this invention.

By way of example, black patent leather could form the writing surface and colored (non-black) and white dry erase markers **80** could be used. One unique and desirable combination is to use fluorescent dry erase inks on black patent leather for a particularly striking display. Other colors of patent leather could also be used.

With particular reference to FIGS. 1-3, details of the bore **70** or other housing and marker **80** or other writing implement of this invention are described, according to the preferred embodiment. Most preferably, the tread **90** extends up over the heel end **90** all the way up to the foot contacting surface **30**. As an alternative, the side surface **40** could wrap around the heel end **60** of the shoe **10** to join the side surfaces **40** on opposite sides of the shoe **10** together at the heel end **60**.

## 6

The bore **70** provides a preferred form of housing and acts as a means to couple the marker **80** or other writing implement to the shoe **10**. Other coupling means could be complementary fasteners on the shoe **10** and marker **80**, or cylindrical sleeves attached to the shoe **10**, rather than embedded in the core **75**.

The bore **70** preferably includes an entrance **72** located adjacent the heel end **60** and midway between the two side surfaces **40**, and approximately midway between the foot contacting surface **30** and portions of the tread **90** which underlie the foot contacting surface **30**. This bore **70** extends substantially horizontally into the core **75** approximately midway between the foot contacting surface **30** and the tread **90**. The bore **70** preferably has a cylindrical wall **74** defining the bore **70** from the entrance **72** adjacent the heel end **60** to an inner end **76** where the bore **70** preferably terminates.

Where the writing implement is a dry erase marker **80**, the bore **70** is preferably particularly configured to keep the dry erase marker **80** from drying out. In particular, the cylindrical wall **74** near the inner end **76** can be sized with a diameter which causes a friction fit with the marker **80** between a barrel **82** of the marker **80** and a tip **84** of the marker **80**. Thus, a very small chamber, akin to a cap for the marker **80**, is provided adjacent the inner end **76** of the bore **70** which is caused to be airtight by interface between the cylindrical wall **74** and the barrel **82** of the marker **80**. In this way, the dry erase marker **80** remains "fresh" and ready for use until all of the dry erase ink within the marker **80** has been depleted. In one embodiment an actual dry erase marker can be embedded within the core **75** at the inner end **76** of the bore **70** to provide this seal.

Most preferably, a pull ring **86** is also located on the marker **80** to most conveniently allow the marker **80** to be pulled out of the bore **70** for use of the marker **80**.

The preferred marker **80** is a "dry erase" type of marker that contains ink that dries quickly on contact with air, and which turns to powder and can be readily wiped off of appropriate smooth surfaces. One such dry erase marker suitable for this invention is provided by Boone International of Corona, Calif. under the trademark REWRITABLES.

The bore **70** provides a preferred form of housing for the marker **80**. If the writing implement is of a different type than the dry erase marker **80**, it is less important that a seal exist within the bore **70** to preserve freshness of the marker **80**. However, for retention purposes only, it is still desirable that the writing implement be retained within the bore **70** except when a user wishes to remove the writing implement from the bore **70**.

The bore **70** could be provided at various different locations on the shoe **10**, such as entering into the core **75** from the toe end **50**, or entering into the core **75** through the lateral side surfaces **40** of the shoe **10**. Most preferably however, the bore **70** passes into the shoe **10** from the heel end **60**, where a maximum amount of depth of the core **75** is provided and so that the side surfaces **40** can be preserved without interruption of the writing surfaces for the shoe **10**.

With particular reference to FIG. 5, details of an alternative shoe **110** are described according to an alternative embodiment of this invention. The alternative shoe **110** is similar to the shoe **10** of the preferred embodiment (FIGS. 1-4) except that triple bores **170** are provided adjacent the heel end **60**. These triple bores **170** each contain a different one of triple markers **180** therein. With the configuration of the alternative shoe **110**, three markers **180** having different colors can be provided within a single shoe **110**.

When a pair of similar shoes **110** are provided, six markers having different colors can be provided. For instance, the markers could be purple, blue, green, yellow, orange and red



7

and all be contained within a single pair of shoes. Other colors could also alternatively be provided, such as black, gold or brown (or white if a non-white writing surface is provided). With the alternative shoe **110**, the triple bores **170** are preferably each horizontal and parallel with each other and have their entrances extending out of the heel end **60** of the alternative shoe **110**.

While triple bores **170** are shown, it would also be conceivable to provide only two bores, or more than three bores, particularly if the alternative shoe **110** is larger in size or if the markers **180** are smaller in diameter. It is also conceivable that the bores **170** could be provided in multiple separate rows at different elevations so that still further numbers of bores could be provided for more markers and more different colors within the alternative shoe **110**.

In use and operation, and with particular reference to FIGS. **1-3**, basic details of the use of the shoe **10** of the preferred embodiment of this invention are described. Initially and with reference to FIG. **2**, the marker **80** would be contained within the bore **70**. When a user wishes to add expression to the writing surface of the shoe **10**, the user removes the marker **80**, by translation along arrow B, out of the bore **70**. The free marker **80** (FIG. **1**) can then be utilized to write upon the side surface **40** or other writing surface of the shoe **10**. When the marker **80** or other writing implement is no longer being used, it can be conveniently stored and kept fresh by reinserting the marker **80** back into the bore **70** (along arrow A of FIG. **1**). Once the shoe **10** has been decorated with decorations D (FIG. **2**) these decorations D can be readily removed, such as by utilizing a cloth C (or merely wiping with a user's fingers) and with a hand H wiping motion against the writing surface to remove the dry erase ink off of the writing surface. A different decoration D can then be provided or the shoes **10** can be left undecorated.

This disclosure is provided to reveal a preferred embodiment of the invention and a best mode for practicing the invention. Having thus described the invention in this way, it should be apparent that various different modifications can be made to the preferred embodiment without departing from the scope and spirit of this invention disclosure. When structures are identified as a means to perform a function, the identification is intended to include all structures which can perform the function specified. When structures of this invention are identified as being coupled together, such language should be interpreted broadly to include the structures being coupled directly together or coupled together through intervening structures. Such coupling could be permanent or temporary and either in a rigid fashion or in a fashion which allows pivoting, sliding or other relative motion while still providing some form of attachment, unless specifically restricted.

What is claimed is:

**1.** A shoe, comprising in combination:

- an upper portion;
- a foot contacting surface located below said upper portion;
- said foot contacting surface adapted to support a foot thereon;
- a tread located below said foot contacting surface;
- said tread adapted to rest upon the ground when the shoe is worn;
- at least one side surface extending up from said tread;
- at least a portion of said side surface adapted to retain dry erase ink thereon;
- said side surface adapted to release dry erase ink therefrom when wiped;

8

said side surface and said portion of said side surface that is adapted to retain dry erase ink extending up into said upper portion;

said upper portion adapted to at least partially enclose a wearer's foot; and

said upper portion and said portion of said side surface that is adapted to retain dry erase ink being flexible to a degree sufficient to flex and maintain comfort for the wearer's foot;

wherein a pair of said side surfaces are provided on opposite sides of a core between said tread and said foot contacting surface, said core coupling said foot contacting surface to said tread and spacing said foot contacting surface from said tread; and

wherein a bore is located within said core, said bore sized to receive a dry erase marker therein.

**2.** The shoe of claim **1** wherein said bore includes an entrance at a heel end of the shoe, said heel end opposite a toe end.

**3.** A shoe, comprising in combination:

- an upper portion;
- a foot contacting surface located below said upper portion;
- said foot contacting surface adapted to support a foot thereon;
- a tread located below said foot contacting surface;
- said tread adapted to rest upon the ground when the shoe is worn;
- at least one side surface extending up from said tread;
- at least a portion of said side surface adapted to retain dry erase ink thereon;
- said side surface adapted to release dry erase ink therefrom when wiped;
- said side surface and said portion of said side surface that is adapted to retain dry erase ink extending up into said upper portion;
- said upper portion adapted to at least partially enclose a wearer's foot;
- said upper portion and said portion of said side surface that is adapted to retain dry erase ink being flexible to a degree sufficient to flex and maintain comfort for the wearer's foot;
- wherein said at least one side surface extends from said tread at a lower edge to said foot contacting surface at an upper edge;
- wherein a pair of said side surfaces are provided on opposite sides of a core between said tread and said foot contacting surface, said core coupling said foot contacting surface to said tread and spacing said foot contacting surface from said tread;
- wherein a bore is located within said core, said bore sized to receive a dry erase marker therein;
- wherein said bore includes an entrance at a heel end of the shoe, said heel end opposite a toe end; and
- wherein said bore is adapted to seal around at least a tip of the dry erase marker, such that dry erase ink at the tip of the dry erase marker is kept from drying out.

**4.** A shoe, comprising in combination:

- an upper portion;
- a foot contacting surface located below said upper portion;
- said foot contacting surface adapted to support a foot thereon;
- a tread located below said foot contacting surface;
- said tread adapted to rest upon the ground when the shoe is worn;
- at least one side surface extending up from said tread;
- at least a portion of said side surface adapted to retain dry erase ink thereon;



9

said side surface adapted to release dry erase ink therefrom when wiped;

said side surface and said portion of said side surface that is adapted to retain dry erase ink extending up into said upper portion;

said upper portion adapted to at least partially enclose a wearer's foot;

said upper portion and said portion of said side surface that is adapted to retain dry erase ink being flexible to a degree sufficient to flex and maintain comfort for the wearer's foot;

wherein said at least one side surface extends from said tread at a lower edge to said foot contacting surface at an upper edge;

wherein a pair of said side surfaces are provided on opposite sides of a core between said tread and said foot contacting surface, said core coupling said foot contacting surface to said tread and spacing said foot contacting surface from said tread;

wherein a bore is located within said core, said bore sized to receive a dry erase marker therein;

wherein said bore includes an entrance at a heel end of the shoe, said heel end opposite a toe end; and

wherein a plurality of bores extend into said core, each of said bores sized to receive a different color dry erase marker therein.

**5.** A write-on shoe, comprising in combination:

an upper portion;

a foot contacting surface adapted to support a foot thereon;

a tread below said foot contacting surface and adapted to rest upon the ground;

a writing implement;

means to removably couple said writing implement to the shoe;

a writing surface coupled to the shoe and adapted to be written upon by said writing implement;

wherein a core is located between said tread and said foot contacting surface, said core coupling said tread to said foot contacting surface;

wherein said coupling means includes a bore in said core, said bore sized to receive at least a portion of said writing implement therein; and

wherein said writing implement is in the form of a dry erase marker, said bore adapted to seal around at least a tip of said marker.

**6.** The write-on shoe of claim **5** wherein said writing surface includes a side surface extending up from said tread, at least a portion of said side surface adapted to retain dry erase ink thereon, said side surface adapted to release dry erase ink therefrom when wiped.

**7.** The write-on shoe of claim **5** wherein said writing surface includes a side surface extending up from said tread, at least a portion of said side surface adapted to retain dry erase ink thereon, said side surface adapted to release dry erase ink therefrom when wiped.

10

**8.** A method for writing on a shoe, the method including the steps of:

providing a shoe having an upper portion; a foot contacting surface adapted to support a foot thereon; a tread below the foot contacting surface and adapted to rest upon the ground; a dry erase ink writing implement; a writing surface coupled to the shoe and adapted to be written upon by the writing implement; the writing surface adapted to retain dry erase ink thereon; the writing surface adapted to release dry erase ink therefrom when wiped; the writing surface providing at least part of the upper portion; the upper portion adapted to at least partially enclose a wearer's foot; said upper portion and said writing surface being flexible to a degree sufficient to flex and maintain comfort for a wearer's foot;

writing dry erase ink on the writing surface providing at least part of the upper portion with the writing implement; and

wiping off the dry erase ink.

**9.** A method for writing on a shoe, the method including the steps of:

providing a shoe having an upper portion; a foot contacting surface adapted to support a foot thereon; a tread below the foot contacting surface and adapted to rest upon the ground; a writing implement; and a writing surface coupled to the shoe and adapted to be written upon by the writing implement;

coupling the writing implement to the shoe;

removing the writing implement from the shoe;

writing on the shoe with the writing implement;

configuring the writing implement as a dry erase marker and configuring the writing surface to release dry erase ink therefrom when wiped; and

wherein said coupling step includes the step of sealing a tip of the marker within a housing coupled to the shoe both before and after said writing step.

**10.** A method for writing on a shoe, the method including the steps of:

providing a shoe having an upper portion; a foot contacting surface adapted to support a foot thereon; a tread below the foot contacting surface and adapted to rest upon the ground; a writing implement; and a writing surface coupled to the shoe and adapted to be written upon by the writing implement;

coupling the writing implement to the shoe;

removing the writing implement from the shoe;

writing on the shoe with the writing implement;

configuring the writing implement as a dry erase marker and configuring the writing surface to release dry erase ink therefrom when wiped;

locating multiple writing implements within multiple housings between the foot contacting surface and the tread, each of the writing implements being of a different color; and

selecting a color to use before said removing step.

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